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Fantastic Four
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MICHAEL TURNER

A team--and a family--of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four lead lives both ordinary--and extraordinary!

Fantastic Four

After the events of the superhuman civil war, Reed and Sue Richards have decided to take a break from the Fantastic Four to spend time together and work on their marriage. Replacing them are the King and Queen of Wakanda, the Black Panther and Storm!

In the deepest reaches of space, Epoch, the Keeper of Cosmic Awareness, has almost reached the completion of a plan years in the making. With information gathered from the Watcher, the Fantastic Four discover that she has stolen from the grave the body of Gravity, a young super hero who recently died in a successful attempt to save his friends.

Just as her plan is about to come to fruition, Epoch's worst fear comes true as she is discovered by the Silver Surfer, Herald of Galactus! The Fantastic Four, who have come to retrieve Gravity's body and bring it back to Earth, battle with the Silver Surfer, but to little avail. Galactus is hungry for Epoch. When the Black Panther seemingly abandons the team, it looks like the FF's only hope lies in the reborn hero they are trying to rescue--Gravity, who, imbued with cosmic awareness, has been reborn as the new Protector of the Universe!

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4 FOLDSPACE...
WE'RE THREE MINUTES FROM EARTH ORBIT, T'CHALLA--
--AND I DON'T LIKE THIS ONE LITTLE BIT.
AS YOU'VE REPEATED INCESSANTLY FOR THE ENTIRE TRIP, MICHAEL.
I'M NOT ONE FOR RUNNING FROM A FIGHT.
THAT'S WHERE WE DIFFER. I'M NOT ONE FOR LOSING A FIGHT.
KLIK
THIS IS KING T'CHALLA, SENDING IDENTITY CODES.
IDENTITY VERIFIED. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MY CHIEFTAIN?
PREPARE THE MATERIALS FOR MY GALACTUS CONTINGENCY PLAN.
IT WILL BE DONE.

AND, TAKU? PREPARE THE FROGS.
MY CHIEFTAIN...? DON'T YOU THINK, THAT IS TO SAY...
PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY, YOUR HIGHNESS?
DENIED. I'LL BE THERE IN LESS THAN TWO MINUTES. UPON MY ARRIVAL, I'LL EXPECT EVERYTHING TO BE READY.
AS YOU COMMAND, MY
"GALACTUS CONTINGENCY PLAN"? JUST SO HAPPENED TO HAVE ONE, DID YOU?
PREPARATION IS THE FATHER OF SUCCESS.
YEAH, WELL. ASSUMING YOUR PLAN'LL WORK, WE'VE STILL GOT TO GET BACK BEFORE GALACTUS KILLS EVERYBODY.
DON'T WORRY, MICHAEL--
--I'VE ALSO ALLOWED FOR THAT CONTINGENCY.

REALSPACE, THE MILKY WAY GALAXY, SEVERAL HUNDRED LIGHT-YEARS FROM EARTH...
WHO WOULD DARE CHALLENGE THE AUTHORITY OF TWO HERALDS OF GALACTUS?
THE NAME'S GRAVITY. HI.
GRAVITY?
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.
THE DEAD GUY WE CAME HERE TO FIND?
YEAH. I DON'T GET IT, EITHER.

RECONSTRUCTION: CHAPTER THREE

AW, THAT'S JUST CRUDE

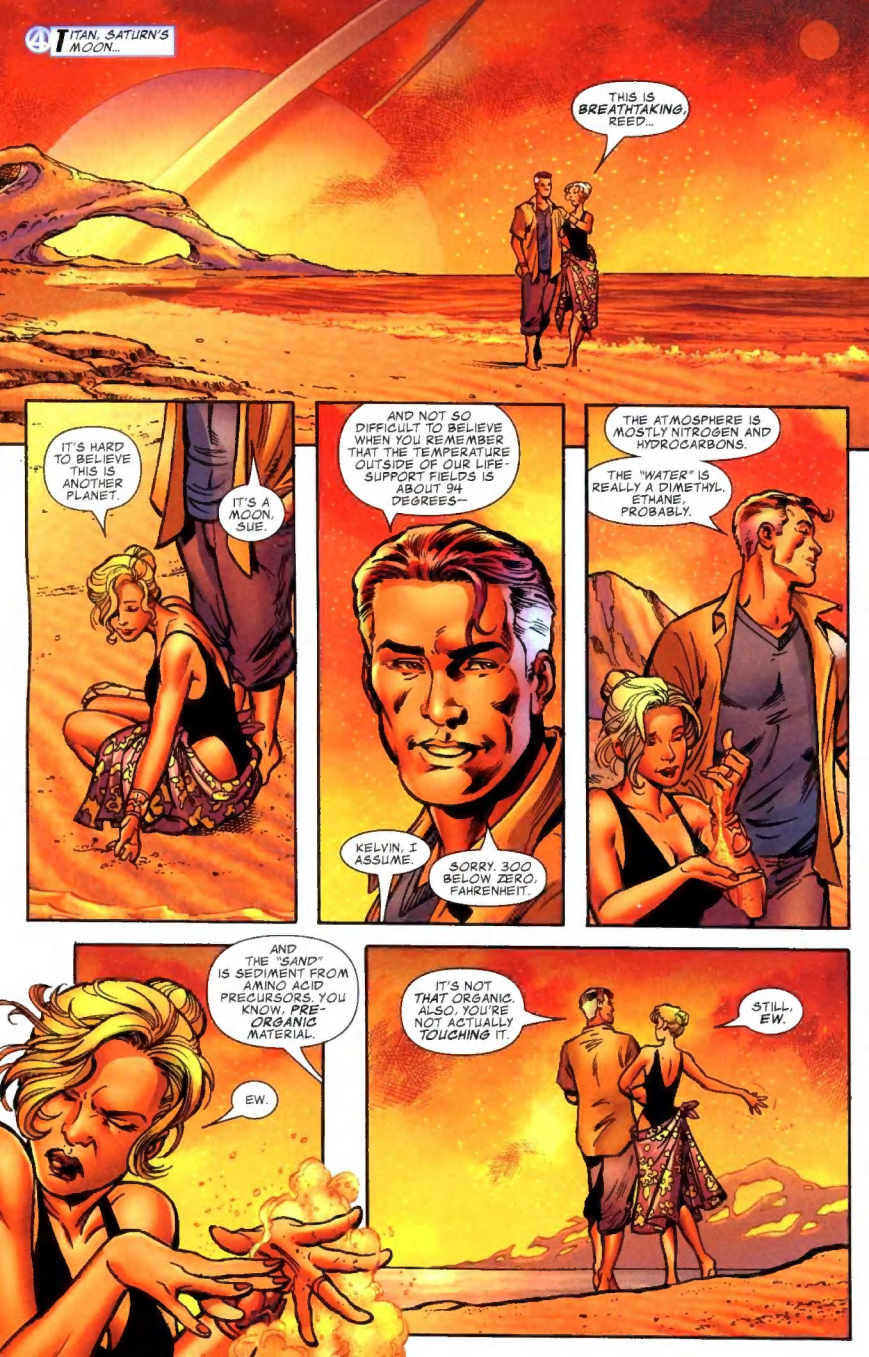
DWAYNE MCDUFFIE	PAUL PELLETIER	RICK MAGYAR, SCOTT HANNA	PAUL MOUNTS	VC'S RUS WOOTON	MOLLY LAZER	TOM BREVOORT	JOE QUESADA	DAN BUCKLEY
WRITER	PENCILER	INKERS	COLORIST	LETTERER	ASST. EDITOR	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF	PUBLISHER

THIS IS THE CORPSE YOU CAME TO RETRIEVE?
SO IT WOULD SEEM.
YOU ARE GREG WILLIS?
UH, TRYING TO MAINTAIN A SECRET IDENTITY HERE, OKAY?
YEAH, THAT WAS KINDA SHOT WHEN THEY PUT YOUR SUPER HERO NAME ON YOUR HEADSTONE.
HOLY CRAP! YOU'RE THE THING!
AND YOU'RE DEAD. TRY AND STAY ON TOPIC.
ALSO, I'M PRETTY FAMOUS MYSELF. FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR? SAVED THE WORLD, LIKE, 70 TIMES? ON FIRE?
ANY OF THIS RINGING ANY BELLS?
YOUR GRAVE WAS ROBBED. WE FOLLOWED THE TRAIL HERE, INTENDING TO RETURN YOU TO YOUR PLACE OF REST.
TURNS OUT I WAS JUST IN SOME KIND OF COSMIC CHRYSALIS.
SO YOU WERE DEAD, BUT YOU'RE BETTER NOW.

I AM NOT AMUSED BY THIS INANITY.
PHRASED MORE DIPLOMATICALLY, YOU HAVE FOUND WHAT YOU CAME FOR. YOUR WORK HERE IS DONE. WHILE OURS IS JUST BEGINNING.
YOU ARE ALL ENCOURAGED TO TAKE YOUR LEAVE WHILE IT IS STILL POSSIBLE.
KIND OF A PROBLEM. I SORT OF AGREED TO BE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.
YOU HAVE JOINED AN HONORABLE LINEAGE. ON YOUR JOURNEY HOME, ASK BENJAMIN GRIMM TO TELL YOU STORIES OF YOUR PREDECESSORS.
THE THING IS, EPOCH HIRED ME FOR THE JOB. SO DON'T YOU THINK IT WOULD BE WRONG TO LET BUCKETHEAD EAT HER?
HOLD!
GALACTUS IS NOT TO BE DISTURBED!

AHHHHHH!
THOOM
SUCH IS THE FATE OF ALL WHO WOULD DARE CHALLENGE GALACTUS.
MURDERER.
KRAKATHOOM

HANG ON, KID. I'M COMIN' FOR YOU!
YOU OKAY?
I AM! WEIRD, HUH?
STAND ASIDE, SURFER. IF YOU FORCE ME TO, I WILL STRIKE YOU WITH MY FULL POWER.
I'M BY NO MEANS YOUR MOST IMMEDIATE PROBLEM, WIND-RIDER.
GODDESS...!


4 TITAN, SATURN'S MOON...
THIS IS BREATHTAKING, REED...
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THIS IS ANOTHER PLANET.
IT'S A MOON, SUE.
AND NOT SO DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE WHEN YOU REMEMBER THAT THE TEMPERATURE OUTSIDE OF OUR LIFE-SUPPORT FIELDS IS ABOUT 94 DEGREES--
KELVIN, I ASSUME.
SORRY. 300 BELOW ZERO, FAHRENHEIT.
THE ATMOSPHERE IS MOSTLY NITROGEN AND HYDROCARBONS.
THE "WATER" IS REALLY A DIMETHYL. ETHANE, PROBABLY.
AND THE "SAND" IS SEDIMENT FROM AMINO ACID PRECURSORS. YOU KNOW, PRE-ORGANIC MATERIAL.
EW.
IT'S NOT THAT ORGANIC. ALSO, YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY TOUCHING IT.
STILL, EW.

SO, REED. WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME?
TELL YOU WHAT?
THE REST OF YOUR PLAN.
C'MON. YOU DID YOUR EQUATIONS AND FIGURED OUT HOW TO SAVE THE WORLD, AT LEAST IN THE SHORT-TERM.
I'VE EXPLAINED TO YOU WHY I HAD TO DO THOSE THINGS...
BUT YOU WON, RIGHT? EVERYBODY GETS TO LIVE. YOU RESET THE TABLE.
IN...A MANNER OF SPEAKING.
SO WHAT GAME ARE YOU PLAYING NOW?
YOU'VE LEFT TONY TO HIS OWN DEVICES, SO WHATEVER YOU'RE UP TO, IT NO LONGER REQUIRES HIM.
SUE...

YOU'RE RIGHT. THE IMMEDIATE THREAT HAS PASSED. WE'RE APPROACHING A TIME OF GREAT OPPORTUNITY.
THERE MAY BE A WAY TO GUIDE THINGS NOW, NOT TO SIMPLY AVERT DESTRUCTION, BUT TO CREATE GOOD.
YOU SOUND A LITTLE LIKE DOCTOR DOOM.
BUT I'M NOT DOOM, AND YOU KNOW IT.
I HAVEN'T FIGURED EVERYTHING OUT YET. BUT WHEN I HAVE, I'LL PRESENT A COURSE OF ACTION TO YOU AND THE OTHERS.
WE'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO TOGETHER, AS A FAMILY. IF ANY OF US DON'T AGREE, NONE OF US WILL GO FORWARD. THAT'S A PROMISE.
NO MORE SECRETS. NO MORE DECEPTION.
DEET DEET

MY APOLOGIES FOR THE INTERRUPTION. BUT I'VE BEEN PROGRAMMED TO INFORM THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE OF ANY UNEXPLAINED INTERPLANETARY PHENOMENA.
AS THE ONLY CURRENT RESIDENTS OF THE HOUSE, AM I CORRECT IN ASSUMING I SHOULD MAKE THIS REPORT TO YOU?
GO AHEAD.
THIS UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT JUST ENTERED OUR SOLAR SYSTEM FROM HYPERSPACE. IT'S RAPIDLY DECELERATING AND APPEARS TO BE HEADING FOR EARTH.
WOULD YOU CARE TO INVESTIGATE?
ALL RIGHT, YOU CAN GO PLAY. BUT I'M COMING WITH YOU.

4
EARTH, THE WAKANDAN PALACE ROYAL...
EVERYTHING IS IN READINESS, MY CHIEFTAIN.
EXCELLENT WORK, TAKU. I'LL BE RETURNING TO DEEP SPACE IMMEDIATELY.
YOU'RE GOING TO BEAT GALACTUS WITH THE STUFF IN HERE?
ACTUALLY, AS CONCEIVED, THE PLAN ALSO REQUIRES THE ENTIRE WAKANDAN AIR FORCE, A SHAPE-SHIFTER, AND THE COOPERATION OF THE HULK.
OBVIOUSLY, THESE ARE LESS THAN OPTIMAL CONDITIONS.
YOU'VE BROUGHT THE FROGS?
YES, MY CHIEFTAIN, BUT I MUST INSIST...

BECAUSE OF THE WISDOM OF YOUR COUNSEL, I ALLOW YOU LIBERTIES THAT NO ONE ELSE ON MY STAFF IS ALLOWED TO TAKE. BUT WHEN I GIVE YOU AN ORDER...
AS YOU SAY, MY CHIEFTAIN. JUST...
...BE CAREFUL.
FROGS?
FLIGHT TIME BACK TO THE OTHERS IS 38 MINUTES. I DOUBT THEY HAVE THE TIME.
THESE ARE KING SOLOMON'S FROGS. ONE WARPS SPACE, THE OTHER, TIME.
USED IN CONCERT, WE CAN TRAVEL BACK TO THE FIGHT ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY.
AW, THAT'S JUST CRUDE...
HMMMMMMMMMMMMMM

DAMN...
HMMMMM
PROTECT THE FROGS WITH YOUR LIFE. TAXI SERVICE IS UNRELIABLE THIS FAR FROM MIDTOWN.
AH!
ORORO!?
I'M... FINE.
GOOD.

YOU CAN LEAD THE OTHERS IN AN ATTACK ON STARDUST THE SURFER IS MINE.
T'CHALLA!
LATER, MY LOVE...
FIRST WE HAVE A BATTLE TO WIN.
YOU HEARD HIM.
YEAH, SOUNDED LIKE WAKANDAN FER--
IT'S CLOBBERIN' TIME!
ZZZZRRRAKK
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'VE FOUND YOUR COURAGE. OR LOST YOUR MIND.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? I CAN'T STOP MY BLAST!
ASKED AND ANSWERED.
NNNNNN...
YOU MAY RECOGNIZE THE ARMOR I'M WEARING: IT'S BASED ON A TECHNOLOGY DR. DOOM ONCE USED TO--
--STEAL YOUR POWER COSMIC.
AND WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO MAY NOT BE STRATEGICALLY OPTIMAL, BUT IT WILL BE EXTREMELY SATISFYING.
JOHNNY, COME HERE!
YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH THE POWER COSMIC. TAKE CARE OF STARDUST.
WHAT ABOUT THE SURFER?
HE'S MY PROBLEM. OR RATHER, I'M HIS...

EVEN WITHOUT MY POWERS, YOU WILL FIND ME A FORMIDABLE OPPONENT.
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
TANNGG
CHECK IT OUT, COSMIC TORCH!
AHHHH!
SHE'S SQUIRMING. NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO HOLD HER LONG.
I'VE GOT HER. SHE'S BALANCED BETWEEN TWO EVENT HORIZONS.
ONE FALSE MOVE AND SHE'LL END UP SQUIRTING OUT OF A WHITE HOLE HALFWAY ACROSS THE GALAXY.
NOW I NEED A WORD WITH GALACTUS. HEY, BIG FELLA--

HELP ME...
NO!
AHHHH!
YOU HURT ME! WHO DARES?
UM, DOWN HERE...?

HI.
YOUR HERALDS WENT TA SLEEP ON THE JOB.
RELEASE EPOCH FROM THAT DEVICE, OR WE'LL BE FORCED TO DO YOU HARM.
YOU WOULD PUNISH ME? I AM BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL.
BE THAT AS IT MAY. YOU'RE OUT OF OPTIONS. THE BOY HAS ALREADY PROVEN HE CAN HURT YOU.
CAN YOU HURT HIM AGAIN?
I COULD CRUSH HIM LIKE A TIN CAN.
DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE MAN I KNEW.
I SAID I COULD, NOT THAT I WOULD. ANYWAY, I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA.
HEY, GALACTUS? EAT THIS!

AHHHHHHH!
HEY, KID! HANG ON A MINUTE!
YOU'RE KILLING HIM!
LIGHTEN UP, MICHAEL--
AND THAT'S...ALL I GOT.
--I'M FEEDING HIM.
IT WAS ENOUGH. I AM RESTORED TO FULL STRENGTH AND IN TURN I HAVE RESTORED MY HERALDS.
YOU HAVE EARNED GALACTUS' THANKS, AND A BOON.

HOW ABOUT KEEPING YOUR HANDS OFF EPOCH?
AS YOU REQUEST. SHE WILL NOT BE HARMED--
--SO SWEARS GALACTUS.
I, TOO, OWE YOU MY THANKS, PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE.
YEAH, ABOUT THAT...
I SORT OF USED UP ALL OF MY POWER FEEDING BOB'S BIG BOY BACK THERE.
SORRY.
I WILL RE-CREATE YOUR CHRYSALIS. YOUR POWER WILL RETURN.
THE THING IS, I DON'T WANT TO BE "PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE." I'M NINETEEN. I KINDA JUST WANT MY OLD LIFE BACK.
YOU HAVE SERVED ME WELL, GREG WILLIS. GO, WITH MY GRATITUDE. I WILL FIND A NEW CHAMPION.
CAN I HITCH A RIDE HOME WITH YOU GUYS?
WHERE'S MY SHIP?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. EVERYBODY GATHER AROUND THE FROGS...

4 THE BAXTER BUILDING, MANHATTAN...
...DON'T SEE WHY I NEED TA HOLD ON TO SOME STUPID--
HEY! THAT'S THE WAY TO TRAVEL!
DID THAT FEEL WEIRD TO ANYBODY ELSE?
AS OPPOSED TO ALL MY OTHER RIDES ON MAGIC FROGS?
HUNH. WANNA RIDE BACK TA WISCONSIN?
NO, THANKS.
I'LL FLY THERE MYSELF.
I THOUGHT YOU EXHAUSTED YOUR POWERS FEEDING GALACTUS.
SURE, I USED UP THE STUFF EPOCH GAVE ME, BUT I'VE STILL GOT MY OLD POWERS.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON MY FOLKS' FACES WHEN THEY SEE I'M STILL ALIVE.
YEAH. I'D CALL FIRST.
4 NEXT- REED, SUE, A MESSAGE FROM SPACE AND THE FRIGHTFUL FOUR...

X-Men: Endangered Species

MARVEL
YOUR UNIVERSE

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